

My name is Chris Fuchs. I work for Benton Charter Township as a Building Official.

As a board member of the (building) Code Officials Conference in the State of Michigan representing all code officials, I stand, for them, before you today as I speak.

We have provided a letter outlining our opposition to the HB4561 including many of the points cited to this point in the hearing and have brought that letter to this hearing. Hopefully you have also heard from our members.

The building code adoption process is an open process. The most competent individuals available review code change proposals which are initiated because of problems or events or inconsistencies. After developing code change language, the hearing process and implementation of the Codes takes input from all interested parties. The building codes are a tested guide to provide life safety for our residents.

I have the privilege of working with Tom Baldwin who sits on the MI Construction Code Committee. He also serves a member of the International Code Commission ad hoc Healthcare committee, sitting as chair of the Fire Safety committee. That committee is charged with correlating all federal requirements for hospitals with the Building Code provisions to improve life safety in the construction and inspection of hospitals. After two years of extensive work, the first draft code language revisions will be heard by interested parties in Dallas in a few weeks. The code hearing process will craft the final version for insertion in the 2015 Building Codes this fall. The committee will remain active for any revisions necessary for some years afterward.

As with all Building Codes, after the international codes adopt the language, the State of MI amends the language to fit the citizens of this State, before implementation into the Michigan codes. As Tom and I discussed the process the other day, our best guess for their inclusion in the State of Michigan's building codes SHOULD THIS 6 YEAR CYCLE BE APPROVED, is for them to possibly not go into effect until 2021. My entreaty to this committee is broader than specifying just hospitals in your consideration of this act: We ask that you not delay the adoption of relevant codes. We ask that you not work to put off adoption of codes that are responsive to events and crises and need. Our code official group would actually like to see Michigan move a little the other direction.

That is, our Code Official group would prefer the Building Code revisions be adopted in the year of their national approval. The 2006 Michigan Building Codes did not go into effect until 2009. The 2009 Codes went into effect in 2011. We would wish that process be streamlined so as to be on a fast track approval every three years to make them relevant, current, applicable technologically, and keep all the associated references in place in a timely manner.

In summary, our Code Officials are opposed to this act lengthening the time from a 3 year building code cycle to a 6 year cycle and ask that you act to strengthen the 3 year code process and adoption.